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The Nebraska Numismatic Association

Journal

The Official publication of the
Nebraska Numismatic Association

October / November / December 2009

Volume 53 Issue 4

1934-2009

Anniversary

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Recap of the LNS Show and Much More!

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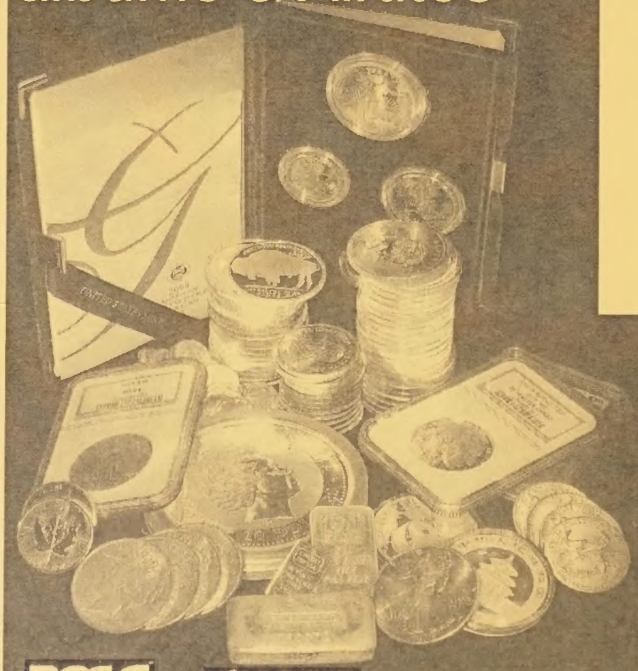

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Journal

The Official Publication of the N.N.A.

-In This Issue-

Page 3	"My 2 Cents" Mitch Ernst / Editor
Page 4 & 5	Pictures of Lincoln Numismatic Society Show
Page 7 –13	Club Spotlight The Omaha Coin Club
Page 14	In Remembrance Roland W. "Rollie" Finner 1934-2009
Page 16	Interview With a Giant
Page 23– 25	First National Bank of Omaha, the first National Bank in Nebraska - Jim McKee
Page 26 & 28	America the Beautiful Quarter Program
Page 30-31	CSNS / OCC Educational Seminar Information and registration form
Page 32	State Club Directory

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- Mar. 1 - for April/May/June issue
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Nebraska Coin Shows & Events

50th ANNUAL

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Mitch Ernst / Editor

"My 2 Cents"

Fall greetings fellow numismatic enthusiasts! Personally, Fall is my favorite time of the year. The air is full of the sights and sounds of the changing season. Football, changing leaves, fall coin shows, football, cool, brisk mornings, all in preparation of the winter that awaits us. Did I mention football?

Er, um, anyway, on pages 4 & 5 of this issue, we get a pictorial overview of Lincoln Numismatic Societies Show that was held September 19-20. Then, it's The **Omaha Coin Club's** turn to be under the **"Club Spotlight"** on pages 7-13 . **OCC** is celebrating it's 75th Anniversary this year and we will take a look at their history as well as the special events they have done and have planned to finish out their diamond anniversary. Speaking of which, this is your last chance to register for the ***Numismatic Educational Seminar*** that Central States Numismatic Society and Omaha Coin Club are co-hosting October 30th in Omaha. With speakers like **ANA President Cliff Mishler, Indian Head Cent authority Rick Snow, Lincoln Cent expert, Chuck Daughtrey and our very own Jim McKee on Obsolete Nebraska Banks notes** with breakfast and lunch with these dignitaries included, who wouldn't want to attend? See pages 30-31 for all the exciting details. Only a few spots remain so if you are interested, act fast.

Speaking of Jim, he continues to share his numismatic knowledge and our State's history in an article on pages 22-25, entitled ***First National Bank of Omaha, the first National Bank in Nebraska.***

Also, the **NNA** needs the help of all **ANA** members. (Acronymically confusing, isn't it?) It has come to our attention that the NNA can receive a discount on it's yearly membership dues to the ANA for each ANA member who belongs to the NNA. So, if you are a ANA member and a NNA member, please send your ANA member # to Jim McKee at P.O. Box 5575 Lincoln, NE 68505 or email Jim at: jimmckee@windstream.net With a bank balance like ours, we need all the help we can get, so, your cooperation is appreciated.

So, have a fantastic Fall and I look forward to seeing you at the Educational Seminar in Omaha on October 30th and OCC's 50th Annual Show October 31 and November 1. Did I mention football?

-Mitch

Lincoln Numismatic Society
Show
September 19th & 20th 2009

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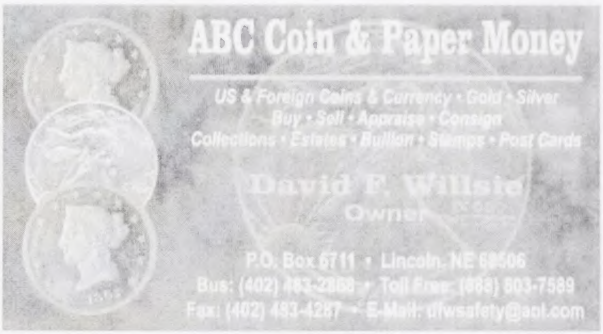

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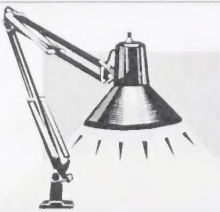
Club Spotlight!
Omaha Coin Club

The Omaha Coin Club was organized on May 6th, 1934 at the home of Nelson T. Thorson. Since its organization, the club has met monthly at a variety of locations. The first regular meeting was held on June 1st, 1934 in the Byron Reed Collection Room of the Omaha Public Library.

Picture taken at the organizational meeting of Omaha Coin Club may 6, 1934

On July 1st, 1934, OCC became a regular corporate member of the American Numismatic Association and was admitted to Life Membership on September 1st, 1935. In February of 1973, the A.N.A notified the club that it had changed the Life Membership number of the club to Club Life Member #0005. In July 1984, OCC became Life Member # 343 of the Central States Numismatic Society.

Three members of OCC have held the position of President of the American Numismatic Association; Nelson T. Thorson, 1933; Lloyd B. Gettys, 1947; and Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, 1953. Nelson T. Thorson served as an ANA Board Chairman from 1929-1932. Dr. J. Hewitt Judd received the ANA Medal of Merit Award in 1955. Dr. Judd, Lloyd Gettys and Aubrey Be-



Club Spotlight!

Omaha Coin Club

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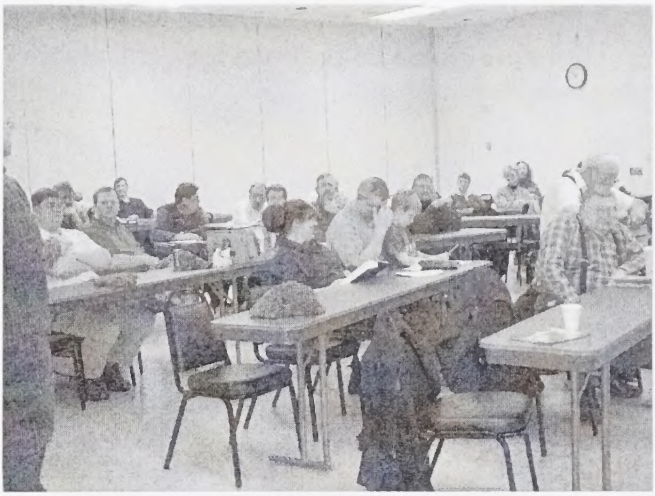
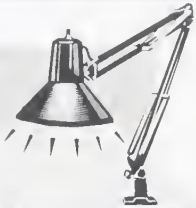


bee received the ANA Medal of Merit Award in 1949, 1951 and 1969 respectively. In 1983, Aubrey E. Bebee became a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society. Dr. Judd also received the ANA Howland Wood Award in 1952 and the ANA Farran Zeerbe Award in 1955. Dr. Judd's book, *United States Pattern Coins*, is still in print today. OCC member Leonard M. Owen authored several articles on Nebraska broken bank notes and has served as a member of the Board of governors of CSNS 1978-1988 and as President 1992-1993. Other notable achievements and recognitions are by past NNA President / editor Steve Drake who received the ANA District Delegate Award in 1989, and the ANA Presidential Award in 1999. Current OCC YN, Samuel Ernst, won the CSNS Daniel J. Parker Junior Literary Award in 2006 and 2007.

OCC has been engaged in numismatic activities from the beginning. It was the

Club Spotlight!



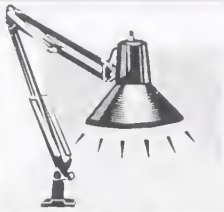
Omaha Coin Club
continued...

first club in the nation to endorse the Heart of America Numismatic Association's resolution in 1934, condemning the method by which commemorative half dollars were distributed and was active in supporting action opposing President's Roosevelt's Bill to discontinue the minting of commemorative half dollars.

In 1965, Omaha had the dubious honor of being "tentatively" chosen as the location for the headquarters of the ANA. Representatives of OCC, the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Joslyn Liberal Arts society, Boystown Phila-

On-line "Coin"nections

You can find Omaha Coin Club online at:
http://OCC.anaclubs.org



Club Spotlight!

Omaha Coin Club

continued...

telic Center and the Byron Reed heirs cooperated in presenting Omaha as a suitable home for the ANA. Subsequent events in Omaha, resulted in Colorado Springs, Colorado being selected as the location of the ANA headquarters. Where it remains today.

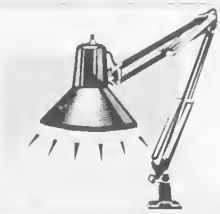
The Byron Reed Collection has always found an advocate in the Omaha Coin Club whenever attempts have been made to sell off portions of the collection.

In 1947, OCC acted as host to the Iowa Numismatic Association's show and in 1955 hosted the ANA's 64th Annual Convention. Additionally, OCC has hosted numerous NNA conventions over the years. OCC hosted its own show on November 12-13, 1960 and this year is celebrating it's 50th Annual Show October 31st and November 1st.

OCC has produced many commemorative items over the years. Medals to commemorate its 25th, 50th and

Club Spotlight!

Omaha Coin Club
continued...



75th Anniversaries as well as a Nebraska Centennial medal in 1967. Numerous wooden nickels, encased coins, elongated coins, ribbons, and slabs have been produced over the past 75 years giving exonumia collectors a lot to chose from.

OCC's monthly newsletter, *The Omaha Coin Club News,* serves to provide members with up-to-date club, local, state, regional and national news and information. Listings of other Nebraska coin club meeting times and a coin show calendar also keep members informed on events and information about the hobby. Paid advertising by local and area dealers supports the publication.

Throughout its history, OCC and its members have dealt with diversity and change, the good times and the bad. It is a credit to the membership of OCC that changes and adversity have always been met and overcome.

Currently, OCC meets the third Friday of each month at the Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Road in Omaha. YN's meet at

Club Spotlight!

Omaha Coin Club

continued...

7:00 pm and the regular club meeting at 7:30 pm with door prizes available to any and all who attend. Meetings include guest speakers, educational programs, a lively quarterly "Live" auction with a silent auction highlighting meetings on other months. OCC is the only club in Nebraska with a monthly YN meeting.

OCC also participates in local parades by entering a "float" and hading out promotional materials, wooden nickels, candy and coins. OCC also has two banquets each year, one in May and the other in December. OCC is Nebraska's oldest numismatic association and the club is quite proud of that fact.

To celebrate its 75th Anniversary this year, OCC held a banquet at Venice Inn Restaurant in Omaha at which a City Proclamation was read declaring the day of the banquets, "Omaha Coin Club Day". A 54 page memory booklet was produced to commemorate the people, events, memorabilia , acknowledgments, achievements of OCC over the past 75 years. Also, an encased 1934 Buf-

Club Spotlight!

Omaha Coin Club

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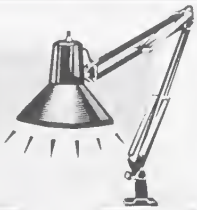
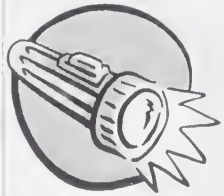


falo nickel was produced and a2009 Lincoln cent was slabbed to commemorate the diamond anniversary of OCC.

Article II of OCC's Constitution essentially states that the object and purpose of OCC is to encourage and promote study and interest in the science of numismatics and cultivate friendly relations among collectors, students and dealers and that the club exists for the educational and social benefit of its members .

Today, education, camaraderie, and fun still describes OCC, it's meetings and members.



Do you want your club under the next
Club Spotlight?
Contact:
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In Remembrance
Roland W. (Rollie) Finner 1934-2009

The numismatic community lost an ambassador and the NNA a friend with the passing of Roland (Rollie) Finner on September 18th, 2009 after a long and courageous fight with cancer.

With a warmth of spirit, a welcoming smile and a willing attitude Rollie worked tirelessly for the hobby. Besides his duties as editor of the Central States Numismatic Societies ***The Centinel,*** Rollie could be found at any number of ANA conventions where he manned the Message Center a job for which anyone would be hard pressed to find a better fit.

Always looking for ways to promote the hobby he loved, Rollie agreed to do a "ad swap" with the Journal a number of years ago. He ran an ad for the **NNA** in ***The Centinel*** in exchange for an ad in the **Journal** for **CSNS**. I always believed the **NNA** got the better of that deal but that was the kind of person Rollie was.

Personally, Rollie was instrumental nurturing both my son's and my own interest in the hobby. Always ready, willing and able to lend an ear, offer advice, give a word of encouragement or tell a good story, Rollie was an invaluable resource to this novice editor.

Even though we didn't know Rollie long, his influence on us will be long lasting.

-Mitch Ernst / Editor
NNA Journal

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Editor's note:
Lincoln Cent authority and artist, Chuck Daughtrey, will be one of the speakers at the Omaha Educational Seminar on October 30th.

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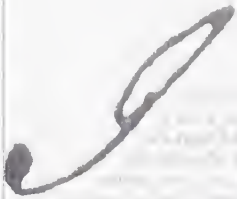
Interview with a Giant



Gabarron Interview
Roger Boye – Period 5

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NNA
News & Events Continued

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So, what can you do? If you are a current ANA member, in good standing, please send your ANA membership # to Jim McKee the Nebraska Regional representative for the ANA. Jim will tally the numbers and let the ANA know how many members we have. Hopefully, with you're participation and a good turnout we can save some serious money on our dues each and every year.

You can contact Jim at: Jim McKee P.O. Box 5575 Lincoln, NE 68505 or email Jim at: jimmckee@windstream.net

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First National Bank of Omaha, the first National Bank in Nebraska

-Jim McKee

The five Kountze brothers Augustus, Charles, Herman, Luther and William from Ohio made an early and ultimately great impact on real estate and banking in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and New York, an impact which is still felt today.

The first bank in Nebraska Territory was, in name, the Western Exchange Fire and Marine Insurance Company and in fact a bank thinly disguised at a point in history when banking was illegal. The nominal insurance company set up shop in 1855 at 12th and Farnam Streets in the rapidly growing village of Omaha City. Augustus Kountze arrived in Omaha the following year from Iowa and purchased several tracts of land. In 1856 Augustus opened the Bank of Dakota City which operated without a charter of any sort. The same year brother Herman arrived at Omaha.

The panic or depression of 1857 brought real estate sales to a standstill and banks failed at a rapid rate, most having little or no reserves. Seeing others failure as a potential opportunity, the brothers opened a private bank in Omaha in December of 1857 on the north side of Farnam Street two doors west of Twelfth Street. This tiny, one-room, 20 by 30 foot, frame building housed the Kountze Brothers Bank whose main business was the purchase and sale of gold dust and government vouchers.

Although virtually all of the so-called wildcat banks in Nebraska failed, Kountze managed to redeem all of the notes of his Dakota City bank and even bought the safe and furniture of the Bank of Nebraska at its bankruptcy auction for his new Omaha operation. By 1857 Augustus had also been named

treasurer of the Nebraska Territory and immediately made his bank, now next door to another private bank belonging to Francis Smith, the official depository for the territory. Because the bank's vault was little more than a portable safe which was sometimes too small for the amount of gold on hand, Luther Kountze and bookkeeper W. H. S. Hughes often slept in the bank as guards.

As Omaha City prospered, so did the Kountze brothers, both in real estate and banking. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln signed the National Bank Act. Kountze's assistant cashier, 26 year old Henry Yates, filed the official application and on August 26, 1863 their newly formed First National Bank of Omaha received the 209th national bank charter in the U. S. and the first in Nebraska Territory. On April 1, 1864 the new bank opened two doors west of the still operating Kountze Brothers Bank with a capitalization of $50,000. In the meantime the brothers also established banks in Central City and Denver, Colorado and later added banks in Cheyenne, Wyoming and New-York City.

The first president of First National Bank of Omaha was Edward Creighton, telegraph company owner and developer while Augustus Kountze was named cashier. In 1865 First National absorbed the Kountze Brothers Bank and began plans for a new building which was completed the following year on the southeast corner of 13th and Farnam. With the establishment of the Union Pacific Railroad, Augustus became a member of its board of directors and soon was associated with several other railroads.

In 1881 Henry Yates left First National to become cashier of the Nebraska National Bank of Omaha, then in 1884 was elected president of the new bank which was ultimately absorbed by First National in September of 1923.

As First National continued to grow along with Omaha they replaced their two-story building with a fireproof, brick and

stone, five-story, 66 by 132 foot, $300,000 structure at the same location in 1888. In 1907 the presidency of the bank passed from Herman Kountze to the next generation with Charles T. Kountze, the last Kountze to be an officer.

In 1916, still under Charles' direction, the bank hired architects Graham, Anderson, Probst & White to design a new 14-story, $1,500,000, tornado-proof building for the old Board of Trade site on the southwest corner of 16th and Farnam. In 1971 the $11,000,000 First National Tower replaced the 1917 building which was then converted to apartments and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Originally appeared in edited form in the Lincoln *Journal Star.*

Editor's note:
Today, First National is the largest privately owned banking company in the United States, with locations in seven states and more than 6.6 million customers across the country. First National of Nebraska and its affiliates have $20 billion in managed assets and more than 6,000 employees in 35 states.
Source: www.firstnational.com

That was just one of many fascinating stories that could be told about coins, currency and collectors in the State of Nebraska. Do you have a story that you would like to tell? We would like to hear it.

Send your submissions to:
Mitch Ernst / Editor
Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
P.O. Box 24913
Omaha, NE 68124
Email: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

US Mint announces
National Sites Quarter Program

America the Beautiful National Site quarters -Mitch Ernst

Beginning next year, we will have a new series of quarters to collect. On the heels of the successful "State Quarter" program the powers that be in the various halls of government have decided that our National Parks and Historic Sites need to be recognized on our coinage. The quarters will be released according to the year of the Parks founding. The sites were reportedly chosen by each state's Governor. So, we can thank Governor Heinemann for choosing Homestead National Monument of America which will be released in 2015. Do we have another covered wagon on a Nebraska quarter in our future? Time will tell.

Included in the legislation for the America the Beautiful Quarter program is a provision for the mint to strike 3" in diameter, 5 ounce .999 silver bullion coins with the same designs as the quarters to satisfy the bullion collectors among us.

A full listing of the release dates and sites follows.

2010
Arkansas- Hot Springs National Park
Wyoming- Yellowstone National Park
California- Yosemite National Park
Arizona- Grand Canyon National Park
Oregon- Mt. Hood National Forest

2011
Pennsylvania- Gettysburg National Military Park
Montana- Glacier National Park
Washington- Olympic National Park
Mississippi- Vicksburg National Military Park
Oklahoma- Chickasaw National Recreation Area

2012
Puerto Rico- El Yunque National Forest
New Mexico- Chaco Culture National Historical Park
Maine- Acadia National Park
Hawaii- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Alaska- Denali National Park

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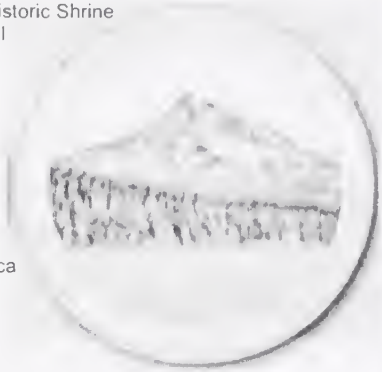
2013
New Hampshire- White Mountain National Forest
Ohio- Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial
Nevada- Great Basin National Park
Maryland- Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
South Dakota- Mount Rushmore National Memorial

2014
Tennessee- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Virginia- Shenandoah National Park
Utah- Arches National Park
Colorado- Great Sand Dunes National Park
Florida- Everglades National Park



2015
Nebraska- Homestead National Monument of America
Louisiana- Kisatchie National Forest
North Carolina- Blue Ridge Parkway
Delaware- Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge
New York- Saratoga National Historical Park

2016
Illinois- Shawnee National Forest
Kentucky- Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
West Virginia- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
North Dakota- Theodore Roosevelt National Park
South Carolina- Fort Moultrie (Fort Sumter National Monument)

2017
Iowa- Effigy Mounds National Monument
District of Columbia- Frederick Douglass National Historic Site
Missouri- Ozark National Scenic Riverways
New Jersey- Ellis Island National Monument (Statue of Liberty)
Indiana- George Rogers Clark National Historical Park

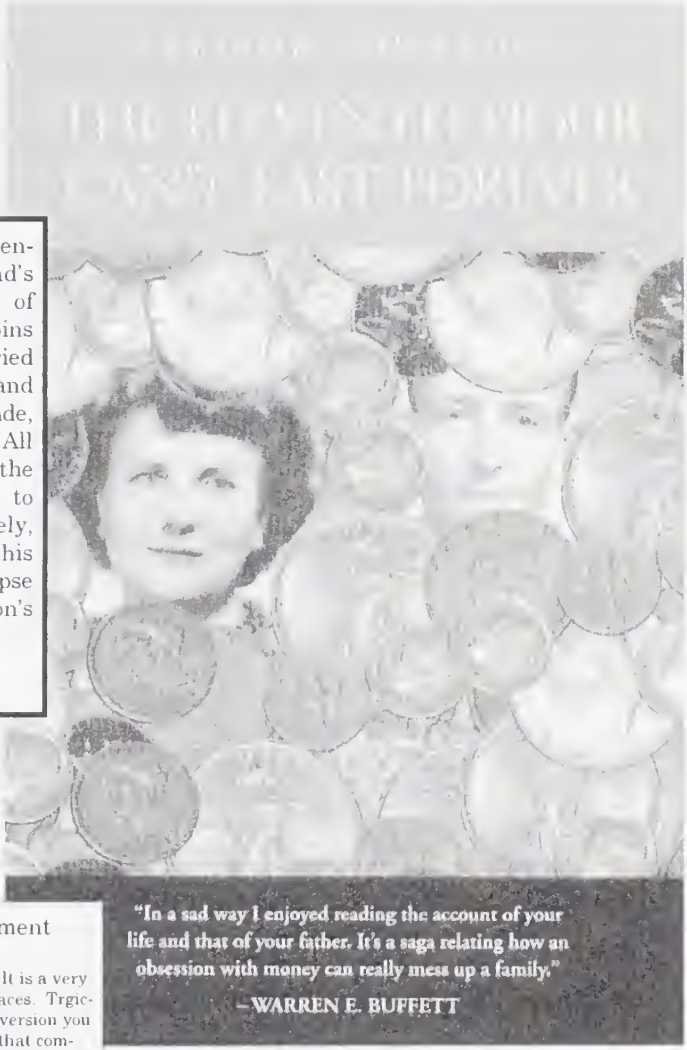
2018
Michigan- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
Wisconsin- Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
Minnesota- Voyageurs National Park
Georgia- Cumberland Island National Seashore
Rhode Island- Block Island National Wildlife Refuge

2019
Massachusetts- Lowell National Historical Park
Northern Mariana Islands- American Memorial Park
Guam- War in the Pacific National Historical Park
Texas- San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
Idaho- **Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness**

2020
American Samoa- **National Park of American Samoa**
Connecticut- Weir Farm National Historic Site
U.S. Virgin Islands- **Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve**
Vermont- Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
Kansas- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

2021
Alabama- Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

"The Eleventh Hour Can't Last Forever - A Memoir by Alison Johnson



This true account centers around Dad's hoard of two tons of gold and silver coins that he hid and buried in our houses and buildings in Palisade, leaving no map. All because he feared the economy was going to collapse. Unfortunately, his obsession led to his wife's mental collapse and his older son's hopeless alcoholism.
-Alison Johnson

Back Cover Endorsement

"It is an astonishing story. It is a very sad story. Very funny in places. Trgic-comic, I guess. And in this version you maintain for the most part that complexly mixed ton eof disaster and almost burlesque - farce? Very well."

Wayne Carver
William H. Laird Professor of the Liberal Arts
Carleton College

If you would like to learn more about the book or purchase it you can visit Alison Johnson at her website: http://alisonjohnsonmemoir.com/

More Upcoming

Nebraska Numismatic Events

Numismatic Educational Seminar

Central States Numismatic Society
& The Omaha Coin Club

Friday October 30, 2009
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Omaha Holiday Inn Convention Center
72nd & Grover Streets

Speakers & Topics

8:00 am continental breakfast

9:00 am Chuck Daughtrey: Lincoln Cent expert on "An Overview of the Lincoln Cent"

10:30 am Jim Mckee: "Nebraska's Wildcat Banks & Banknotes"

Noon: Lunch

1 pm Rick Snow, the nation's leading authority on Flying Eagle and Indian head cents: "*Counterfeit Indian Head Cents*"

2:30 pm ANA President, Cliff Mishler: "The Standard Catalog or World coins - The Why and How of its Development"

Registration Fees: CSNS members, $10, non-members $20 (Includes continental Breakfast and full lunch!)

To Register contact: Ray Lockwood, Education Director
2073 E Bocock Road Marion, IN 46952
Phone 765-664-6520 fax: 765-664-6503
email: sunrayotmarion@aol.com

1934-2009 75 Anniversary

SPACE IS LIMITED! Only 4 spots remain so MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

CSNS/OCC Educational Seminar Registration Form

Cut out and mail in
↓ ↓ ↓

Central States Numismatic Society – Omaha Seminar
Omaha Holiday Inn - Convention Center
October 30, 2009

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

I am registering for the Omaha Seminar as follows:

$_____ Central States Member ($10)

$_____ Non CSNS Member ($20)
I wish to apply $10 of my $20 registration fee to a one-year Central States membership _____(yes)

Mail to: Ray Lockwood - CSNS Education Director
2075 E. Bocock Road - Marion, IN 46952

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Direct all questions, suggestions, articles or advertising inquiries to:
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Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
P.O. Box 24913
Omaha, NE 68124
Email: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

Nebraska Numismatic Association

Club Directory - Meeting times and locations

Fremont - Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 pm.

Grand Island - Grand Island Coin Club, No longer meeting

Lincoln - Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Hwy. 2, 7:30 pm.

Lincoln - Lincoln Numismatic Society, 1st Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney road and Hwy 2, 7:30 pm.

Nebraska City - Nebraska City Coin Club, 4th Tuesday, @ the Burger King S 77 Hwy, 7:00 pm

North Platte - Platte Valley Coin Club, No current information on club's existence or meeting location is available

Omaha - Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Road. 7:30 pm. YN's 7:00 pm.

Omaha - SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 pm.

Scottsbluff - Oregon Trail Coin Club, 2nd Wednesday, McDonald's Office, 511 West 27th, 7:30 pm.

South Sioux City - Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa, 51106

Seward - Nebraska tokens Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 pm.

Wahoo - Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum, 240 N. Walnut, 8:00 pm.

→Not responsible for invalid information ←

If you have corrections or addtions please submit them in writing to:
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